

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED
FEB 5 1976
AUG 27 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Nicholson Cheese Factory

AND/OR COMMON
Use Kasper, Philip H., Cheese Factory *mu*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
w of Bear Creek on W 22
State Trunk Highway 22

CITY, TOWN
Bear Creek

STATE
Wisconsin

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8th

COUNTY
Waupaca

CODE
135

CODE
55

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Not currently in use.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Lester Kasper, Sr.

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN
Bear Creek

STATE
Wisconsin 54922

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Waupaca County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Waupaca

STATE
Wisconsin 54981

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE
1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built ca. 1888-1889, the T-shaped building consisted of a gable-roofed 1½ story structure with an elongated, centrally placed wing. It was originally a single-boarded structure of rough lumber, divided into a room for receiving raw milk, one for making cheese, and one for curing it. In 1892 Kasper enlarged the building by adding a coal shed to the boiler room, then clapboarded the whole factory. There is a single, tall brick chimney arising from the boiler room, and metal ventilators straddle the ridges of the 1½-story portion and the wing. The ventilators were installed during World War I and replaced the original wooden structures. A hipped roof^{shelter} was later built out to cover the receiving area on the south side of the factory.

Although the factory no longer contains any cheesemaking equipment, the building is well maintained by Kasper's descendants and bears a simple sign reading, "Kasper's Factory."

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		(1) Agribusiness		
				(2) Association with historically im- portant person.		

SPECIFIC DATES

1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It was in the Nicholson Cheese Factory that Philip H. Kasper produced the cheese which became internationally famous and won him acclaim as the world's greatest cheesemaker.

Philip H. Kasper (1866-1942) was born in Sheboygan County and grew up in a typical farm environment. He learned cheesemaking at eighteen, and after working at it for some seven years in Wisconsin and Minnesota, he returned in 1891 and purchased the factory near Bear Creek where he was to make cheese for the rest of his life. He had become an experienced and expert craftsman by then, fully capable of operating his own factory and producing a first rate product. In Minnesota he had discovered that good cheese could be made the year round and not just during the seven or eight warmer months.

Kasper won a medal and diploma for his cheese at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. During the 1890's he was one of the organizers of the Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association, of which he was later president for several years. In 1894 he attended the Dairy School at the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture and graduated with highest honors. He was quick to make use of what he had learned and in 1894 began paying for milk according to its butterfat content as determined by the Babcock test. He insisted, in agreement with William Dempster Hoard, that consistently high quality milk could only be obtained from selectively bred dairy cattle and not "general purpose" cows, and worked actively to develop herds of good dairy cattle in the area from which he purchased his milk. Also, largely through Kasper's efforts, Waupaca County became the first in Wisconsin to have cattle tuberculin-tested. It was because of the expertise, foresight, and dedication of a few men like Kasper that Wisconsin became the nation's leading producer of cheese.

Always striving for improvement, Kasper won many prizes for his cheese, including the Grand Prix at the Paris Exposition in 1900 and the title, "Greatest Cheesemaker in the World" at the International Dairy Show in Chicago, 1912.¹ Altogether he won over 200 awards, gold medals, and other prizes for his skill and craftsmanship. He received national and international acclaim for his "Martha Washington" brand American cheese. In 1927 he was officially recognized by the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture for leadership in the cheese industry and in 1941 was similarly honored by Joint Resolution of the Wisconsin Legislature.

Philip Kasper won so many more prizes with his cheese than any other man in the United States that Robert Ripley called attention to it in his "Believe It Or Not." Throughout his career, Kasper used the knowledge he gained to teach others, and many of Wisconsin's best cheesemakers were those who had learned their craft at the Nicholson Cheese Factory. The factory is the remaining building most closely associated with Kasper.

1. Cheese Reporter, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., Dec. 11, 1942.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cheese Reporter, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., Dec. 11, 1942
 Joint Resolution No. 30S, Wisconsin State Legislature, Madison, 1941
 Kasper Children, The Golden Jubilee of the World's Champion Cheesemaker, n.p., n.d. (ca. 1942)
 Kasper, Philip H., "P.H. Kasper Recalls 50 Years of Cheesemaking," Nat'l Butter & Cheese Journal, 32(11):18, 1941
 Wisconsin Cheese Makers' Association, Report of Seventh Annual Meeting, Madison, Wis., 1899

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0 *0.5*

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	3	4	9	7	6	0	4	9	3	0	9	0	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING						

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allan T. Heninger, Planning Analyst I

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

12-18-75

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-2971

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James Morton Smith

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest

Wm. J. ...

DATE

8/27/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles ...

DATE

8-26-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER